

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Of course it will - it will be the same problem as with DVD region code! why am i not allowed to play DVD's that i purchased legally in the USA? Of course any so called "broadcast flag" will cut user's rights in one way or the other - let me give an example: when someone gives you special power, you'd use it, trust me. there are pirates on both sides: industry and consumer.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? yes, probably the connection would be declared as potential security breach and hence locked.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Of course older machinery will not be able to playback those special streams - same as with music-cds not being able to be read in older cd-players. and why wasn't it possible to playback dvd's with linux-operating machines? programs written specifically for this purpose (please think of the copy-protection-system having the same acronym as cascading style sheets) were declared illegal and one of the authors was even accused of committing a crime.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

of course - probably it will be the same as with dvd's making it impossible to decode the streams without a key - costing outrageous amounts of money making any new freeware solutions impossible for example.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

if you once bought new equipment all will be fine... older devices won't work, but well, we're all getting our new dvd-players thrice a year, don't we? and i have to buy velvet gloves here and then to prevent my hands from leaving any fingertips or the slightest scratch for i'd be too frightened to "kill" my precious discs.

Other Comments:

copy-protection and digital rights management has already gone to far - i can see were this whole discussion is leading: consumer rights will be non-existent, the industry will have all possibilities, they will controll prices, cartels will get even more powerfull! total control of my private pc, my data will be spyed on, they will build reporting mechanisms into their devices so that my complete digital live will become translucent. drm and broadcast flags are the wrong way to treat copies - making it harder for the average user to copy dvd's for example is the right way to go, preventing me from playing back dvd's from another region is actually illegal where i live. making the content of the industry's property is the right way - i have bought and will always buy items that interest me, out of the consideration to support the author. there is no need to keep me from making copies - why am i not allowed to make a backup of my legally

owned dvd's/computer games/audio-cds? everyone owning some will admit that it's very easy to scratch them so they will stop working - and i can't exchange them in a shop - i have to buy a new one! something is perverted in this pervers system - i will under no circumstances pay twice for something i own! think of buying a new car just because the fuel is low. never will i believe the industry that it's for my own good, never will i support further intrusions in my personal rights.